



1940.

A N N U A L R E P O R T .
A N D
V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S
O F T H E
U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F K N U T S F O R D .

B Y

ARTHUR T. BLEASE.

M.B. Ch.B.Vict, M.R.C.S.E.
L.R.C.P.L.

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District,
and also for the Rural District of Bucklow.

Medical Adviser to the Bucklow Joint Hospital
Board.

(2)

KNUTSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLORS	G.B.MASON, J.P.	CHAIRMAN.
	E. WALDRON, J.P.	CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL.
	F. HARWOOD.	
	F. JENNINGS.	
	F. JOHNSON, M.C.	
	J. NORBURY.	
	A.E. PERCY.	
	W. SHAW.	
	E.S.THOMAS.	
	A. TOWNSEND.	
	F. WILDGOOSE.	
	J.T. WOOD.	

Co-opted Members of the Maternity and
Child Welfare Committee.

Miss. H.L.ASHWORTH.	Mrs. G.B.MASON.
Mrs. M.A.LEWIS.	Mrs. MARSHALL RIGBY.

J. H. YATES.
Clerk to the Council.

() + A. T. BLEASE, M.B. Ch.B.VICT, M.R.C.S.E.
L.R.C.P.L.
Medical Officer of Health

X + GEO. R. BUTLER, M.S.I.A. A.R.SAN.I.
Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector & Cleansing
Superintendent.

() A. E. LEES, M.B. Ch.B.
Medical Officer, Child Welfare Centre

() MRS. ALEXANDER
Measles and Whooping Cough
Visitor.

() Part Time
+ Salary Contribution by Exchequer Grants
X Whole Time.

(3)

PART 1.

Area of District 2,491 Acres.

Height above Sea Level 210 feet.

Registrar General's estimate of Population 6,306.

Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1940) per rate book 1763.

Rateable Value. £44, 205.

Sum represented by a penny rate - Gross - £184. 4. Od.

Nett - £173. 10. Od.

Birth Rate per 1000 living 13.0

General Birth Rate (England & Wales) 14.6

Death Rate per 1000 living 11.5

General Death Rate (England & Wales) 14.3

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of childbirth, 0.

Deaths under 1 year in proportion to 1,000 Births 25.

"	"	"	"	"	(England	
					& Wales)	55.

Deaths from Cancer. 18.

Deaths from Measles. 1.

Deaths from Whooping Cough, 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years old) 0.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 74 of which 37 were persons of over 65 years, and 2 were children under 1 year old.

PART II. TABLES.TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1940 and two previous Years.

Year.	Population.		Births.		Total Deaths Reg: in the District.	Transferable Deaths.	
	For Birth Rate	For Death Rate.	No.	Rate.		Non Residents Reg. in District.	Residents not Reg. in District.
1938	6333	6333	85	13.4	190	130	9
1939	6346	6413	79	10.6	209	138	11
1940	6306	6306	82	13.0	96	42	20
Nett Deaths Belonging to District							
Under 1 year		At all ages.		Year.			
No.	Rate per 1000	No.	Rate.				
0	0	69	9.2	1938			
2	25	82	10.9	1939			
2	24.4	74	11.5	1940			

TABLE 11.
Diseases notified under Acts and Orders during 1940.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. At Ages - Years.							Total Cases Removed To Hospital.
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards
Whooping Cough	13		3	10				
Small-Pox								
Cholera-Plague	5			4		1		5 *
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)								
Erysipelas	1			1				1
Scarlet Fever								
Typhus Fever								
Typhoid Fever and Para-typhoid	1				1			1
Enteric Fever								
Relapsing Fever-								
Continued Fever								
Puerperal Pyrexia								
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3			1	2			3 †
Polio-myelitis								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3				1	1	1	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1					1	1	†
Other Forms "	6	1	1	1	2	1	1	5 †
Pneumonia								
Malaria								
Encephalitis Lethargica								
Measles.	248	5	88	150	2	2	1	
Totals	281	6	92	167	8	5	3	18

* Three were found not to be Diphtheria.
† All were in hospital when notified. Two were Military cases and the other was not a Knutsford resident.
‡ In hospital when notified.

(5)
TABLE 111.

Deaths Registered during the Calender Year 1940, classified by age and cause.

Causes of Death	Nett Deaths at the subjoining ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total deaths whether of residents in or non-residents in the Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All causes { Certified Un- " "	74 0									
Enteric Fever										
Small-pox										
Measles	1	1								
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria and Croup										
Influenza										
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Cerebro Spinal Fever										
Syphilis										
G.P.I. Tabes etc.,										
Erysipelas										
Phthisis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2						2			
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Other T'bercls Diseases										
Cancer, Malignant Dis'ses	18						2	10	6	7
Diabetes	1	1								1
Rheumatic Fever										
Meningitis										
Aneurysm										
Organic Heart Disease	15							3	12	17
Other Circulatory Dis's										
Bronchitis	4						1	3		3
Pneumonia (all forms)	2		1						1	1
Other diseases of Resp- iratory Organs										
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1								1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)										
Appendicitis and Typhl- itis										1
Other digestive Disease										
Cirrhosis of Liver										
Other Liver Diseases										
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5							3	2	5
Senility	4								4	
Alcoholism										
Nephritis & Bright's Dis.	3						1	1	1	1
Arterio-sclerosis	5								5	5
Puerperal Fever										
Other Accidents and Dis- eases of Pregnancy and Parturition										
Congenital Debility and Malformation including premature birth										1
Violent Deaths excluding Suicide	6						2	1	3	6
Suicide										1
Other defined Diseases	7				1	1	1	2	2	3
Diseases unknown or ill- defined										
Totals	74	2	1		1	1	9	23	37	53

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(6)
TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY.

1940 Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 wks & under 3 months	3 mths & under 6 months	6 mths & under 9 months	9 mths & under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 Year
All causes Certified....2 Uncertified..										
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles							1			1
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria and Group										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Abdominal Tuberculosis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis (not T.B.)										
Convulsions										
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis										
Pneumonia (all forms)								1		1 *
Diarrhoea										
Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformation										
Premature Birth										
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus										
Other Causes										
Totals							1		1	2

Nett Births registered during the calendar year-legitimate 77,illegitimate 5.
 Nett Deaths " " " " " -legitimate infants 2
 illegitimate infants 0.
 Still-births-legitimate 3 illegitimate 0.

* Pneumonia was complication of Diabetes Mellitus.

(7)

TABLE V - Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

Year.	Small-pox	Scarlet	Diphtheria	Enteric	Puerperal	Erysipelae	Phthisis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Pneumonia	Total
1937		15	9	1	1	1	7	3	5	42
1938		8	26		2	1	2	3	7	49
1939		14	41		4		1	5	10	75
1940		1	5	1			3	1	6	17

TABLE VI
Deaths from Special Diseases.

Year	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Enteric	Diarrhoea	Phthisis	Puerperal	Erysipelae	Other forms Tuberculosis	Total.
1937								4				4
1938				1				3	2		1	7
1939				3				1				4
1940		1						2				3

TABLE VII (a)
Number of Cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year ended Dec 31st 1940.

	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and upwd	Totals
	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F
Pul-mon-ary.						1		1	1			3
Non-Pul-mon-ary.		1										1

TABLE VII (b)
Deaths from Tuberculosis registered during the year ended Dec 31st 1940.

	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and upwd	Total
	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F
Pulmonary								2				2
Non-pulmonary												

TABLE VII (a)
Number of Cases of Tuberculosis notified during the Year ended Dec 31st 1940.
Transfers from other areas.

Non-Pul-monary						M F						M F
						1						1

Notification is perfect. The register at the end of 1940 showed as follows :-

Pulmonary Cases	Males	7)	13)
	Females	6)		
Non Pulmonary Cases	Males	6)	14) 27
	Females	8)		

The County Council Laboratory examined 18 sputum specimens of which 2 were positive.

No persons suffering from Tuberculosis were found to be engaged in food supply or distribution.

No action under Sect: 172 of Public Health Act 1936.

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(9)
SECTION B.

It is desired that Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health shall be brief during the war.

The foregoing tables give many details and I have added footnotes to them. As hospital and laboratory etc., facilities remain unchanged, I need only add short references to :-

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

109 children made 602 attendances at the Centre. This is an average of 23 per session as in 1939.

The Health Visitor paid 470 visits to expectant mothers, 469 to children under 1 year old, and 916 to those between 1 and 5 years.

The Infant Mortality figure is less than half that of the country as a whole, and the infant deaths during the last three years are less than one fifth of those in the three years before the Maternity & Child Welfare Scheme began to operate. This is extremely satisfactory as it means that more than 80% of the infantile mortality has been abolished, but it does not follow that all this improvement, some of which has occurred in many districts, is due to the Child-Welfare schemes of this or any other local authority, although many public speakers of considerable repute have repeatedly implied, if not actually stated, that such is the case. The truth is that many factors have contributed to this improvement, but this is not the place to discuss them.

ANTI-NATAL CARE SCHEME.

Apart from the above-mentioned 470 visits by the Health Visitor to expectant mothers, there is a considerable increase in the number of mothers who are medically examined under the scheme and at least half now avail themselves of these facilities.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The district is supplied with water by the Knutsford Light and Water Company, who buy from Manchester Corporation. The water is soft with a low salinity, and is of exceptionally high degree of organic purity. No extensions of mains were made during the year, and the supply has always been sufficient.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND SCAVENGING.

All ashbins and pail closets are cleansed weekly, a number of bins at the hotels and large shops being emptied twice weekly.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the District and the number of gypsies camping on roadsides has reduced to practically nil.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the Town.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

No nuisances have arisen in respect of Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

THE ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the general inspection of the district two houses were found to be infested with bugs, both privately owned. The houses were treated with insecticide and effectively cleared. The work of disinfection is carried out by the Council's Workmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All the sewerage from the Urban District is carried by gravitating sewers to the disposal works on the north-east boundary of the Town, where the treatment has been carried out quite satisfactorily during the past year.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the schools are above suspicion as to the cause of infectious disease. The lavatory accommodation and closets are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and all elementary schools are disinfected during the summer holidays.

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

No plans were submitted during the year, and house construction has been nil. Eight houses built by the Council were completed during the year, and four of these were let to overcrowded families in other parts of the town.

The usual routine inspections were carried out and a number of informal notices issued which had the desired effect. One house was closed during the year and converted into a store room.

Generally speaking the housing conditions in the Town are quite satisfactory.

SECTION E.**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.****MILK SUPPLY.**

During the year the farms and dairies have been visited at various times, and continue to be kept in a satisfactory manner.

The sampling of the milk is undertaken by the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council, but no cases of adulterations were reported during the year.

VETERINARY INSPECTION OF CATTLE.

The veterinary inspection of cattle is not now carried out by the County Council. Seperate statistics are not kept for the various districts regarding milk samples for bacterial content and tubercle bacilli, but the County Medical Officer confirms that samples of milk have been examined from each farm holding an accredited licence.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

All the slaughterhouses in the area are closed and no animals have been slaughtered in the area during the year. The various butchers in the town receive their supplies from the allocation depot at Altrincham.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 12 Bakehouses in use in the district. These premises have been inspected periodically during the year, and notices requesting the occupiers to limewash the walls have been served at stated periods, and as occasion has required. The premises have been kept clean generally, and have been limewashed in accordance with the regulations.

SECTION F. - INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.**

Immunisation against diphtheria has gone ahead during the year. About 85% of the children are now immunized and this does not mean 85% of school children only.

SANITARY STAFF.

This is unchanged. As usual I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Butler, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for his excellent work throughout the year, also for his assistance in compiling this Report.

ARTHUR T. BLEASE.

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. London.

